

Today, after countless natural cycles of alternating seasonal drought and flood, life, death and renewal, the early ingenuity of the Hohokam people lives on through the vision of the founders and 4,300 employees of the Salt River Project, the largest provider of surface water in Arizona and the nation's third-largest public power utility.

The Salt River Project began in 1903 when an association of landowners in the Phoenix area, frustrated by their inability to manage the water supply for their crops and cattle, incorporated their properties as collateral toward a federal loan under the National Reclamation Act. This community corporation led to the construction of the Theodore Roosevelt Dam, the largest structure of its day, and the foundation for a prosperous local economy and municipal infrastructure that was able to control the source and supply of its most valuable natural commodity.

In the century following this initial project, the focus and scope of the Salt River Project has grown to include a number of major power plants and generating facilities in Arizona and the Southwest that use thermal, hydroelectric and nuclear reaction for power production. Every day, Salt River Project's modern network of dams and power generating plants deliver water to more than one million residents and serve electricity to more than 780,000 customers at some of the lowest prices among major utilities in the Southwest, according to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. This attention to customer needs has earned Salt River Project accolades inside and outside of the energy and water industry.

As a result of the region's continuing capacity for development and efficient water management, census figures have shown Arizona's growth rate to be one of the fastest in the nation, with a 40 percent increase in population during the 1990's. The prosperity and quality of life that is presently enjoyed by every citizen of the great state of Arizona, is a testament to the vision of the founders of the Salt River Project and a legacy that has endured for the past one hundred years through the actions of its current and past employees.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Salt River Project on the hundredth anniversary of its founding and to honor those individuals who have participated in bringing the precious gift of water to our desert environment.

IN RECOGNITION OF SOME EVERYDAY HEROES

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize four outstanding individuals who helped me resolve a matter involving one of the youngest constituents of the Fourth District of Virginia.

Jacquelyn Dominguez is the one year old daughter of a servicemember stationed at Ft. Lee. Jacquelyn was born with Cystic Hygroma on the right side of her neck. At the time of her birth, the cyst was diagnosed as "free floating." Last September 2002, the Army flew the family to Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, DC, for Jacquelyn to be seen by a

specialist. The specialist did several MRIs and determined that the cyst was growing inward on Jacquelyn's neck, cutting off her breathing. The best option for treatment on this tender child would be an experimental drug, Picibanil Sclerotherapy, also known as OK 432.

It is not standard procedure for medical health providers to provide for experimental procedures. It is certainly not standard for them to read, and reread, and reread the rules again until they can find an exception. These four individuals, who neither I nor my staff had ever met before the plight of this little girl, took on my cause and made a difference.

They helped me save this little girl's life. For that I, and Jacquelyn's active duty family will always be grateful. It is at this time that I would like to recognize Ms. Mary Dix, Vice President of the Uniformed Services University of Health Science (USUHS), Colonel Charles C. Partridge, the Legislative Counsel for the National Association for Uniformed Services (NAUS), Dr. Stephen K. Scroggs, Ph.D., the Vice President of Government Affairs at Sierra Military Health Services, and the most valuable player of this team, Ms. Christine Van Cleave, of TRICARE Management Activity—Aurora, Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, and Jacquelyn Dominguez' family in saluting these four outstanding Americans. Their willingness to help young Jacquelyn is the very embodiment of our country's spirit, and it is fitting that the House of Representatives honors them on this day.

TRIBUTE TO MS. OLA RICHBOURG

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker I rise today to honor one of Florida's most cherished and dedicated citizens, whom over the course of her life has given an immeasurable amount of time and effort to the community that she has worked so hard to build. On February 15, 2003, the city of Laurel Hill will honor Ms. Ola Richbourg as its Citizen of the Year for 2003, recognizing her long and distinguished period of service to the Laurel Hill community.

Born on March 27, 1921 in the same wood frame home where she lives today, Ola is described by her peers as a lady that will go out of her way to help others. The daughter of John Franklin and Katie Haynes Richbourg, she learned the value of working for her community at an early age from her father who served three terms as a state representative, beginning in 1907. In 1977, she was appointed to the position of County Clerk of Laurel Hill and was subsequently elected, in 1979, to the City Council, where she remained for thirteen years.

Even more remarkable is her history of service to her country. Upon graduating from Laurel Hill High School in 1939 and attending a government-run school in Ocala where she learned shorthand and typing, Ola joined the United States Marine Corps on November 5, 1943, during the height of World War II. It was at a movie that Ola saw a commercial asking women to join the military in order to free up men to fight overseas. To Ola, it was an easy decision. She was simply doing whatever she

could to help her country in a time of crisis, but her decision would have a profound impact on the future of our nation. It was her, and many other women's, choice to fight for her country, that would open up all kinds of new doors for women. Following World War II, Ola returned to Laurel Hill, believing she was done with military service. However, shortly thereafter, the Korean War broke out and she reenlisted without hesitation. Dedicating herself to the Marine Corps for nearly two decades, Ola retired as a Tech Sergeant in 1966.

Her strength and determination led her to fight for her country in one of the most important world conflicts of the 20th century and to personally win a battle against cancer of the larynx. Her smile is contagious and her heart as big as they come. She remembers how a nickel could once buy a big RC Cola and lots of candy and that fateful day when she learned where Pearl Harbor was, changing her life forever. It is his kindness and humility that have allowed her to do so much for so many during her life and I know she will continue to do so in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my sincere and heartfelt congratulations to Ms. Ola Richbourg as she receives this special recognition as Laurel Hill's Citizen of the Year. Her contributions to the citizens of Laurel Hill and the United States of America are significant and impressive and I consider her a patriot of the highest order. On this such occasion, we honor a great soldier, civil servant, and neighbor; one of America's greatest citizens.

EAGLES CELEBRATE 100TH ANNIVERSARY IN SCRANTON

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House of Representatives to the 100th anniversary of the Fraternal Order of Eagles in Scranton, Pennsylvania. The Eagles Aerie No. 314 will celebrate this anniversary with a dinner-dance on February 22, 2003.

The Scranton Aerie began on Wyoming Avenue at a four-story building with two large concrete eagles at the top. The fourth floor was a magnificent dance hall; the third floor was used as a meeting hall by the Eagles as well as many local unions; and the second floor housed a social room with a wide, white marble staircase as its entrance. The first floor housed various businesses over the years. Throughout the early years, the Aerie had drill teams that performed in parades.

The 300 members of the Scranton Aerie are part of a national organization founded in 1898 that is now one million strong, with members in every state and parts of Canada as well. The Scranton Aerie moved to its present building in 1977 and takes pride in being the only fraternal organization with its own building in Scranton.

The Scranton Eagles are active with numerous charity projects, having donated several thousand dollars over the years, and with hosting state tournaments and conferences that bring hundreds of people to Scranton.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call to the attention of the House of Representatives the

100th anniversary of the Fraternal Order of Eagles in Scranton as well as their dedication to serving the community, and I wish them all the best.

POSTAL CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT SYSTEM FUNDING REFORM ACT OF 2003

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, as the Ranking member of the House Committee on Government Reform, I join Chairman TOM DAVIS, Representative JOHN MCHUGH and Subcommittee Ranking member, Representative DANNY K. DAVIS, in introducing the "Postal Civil Service Retirement System Funding Reform Act of 2003."

The legislation we introduced today corrects the calculation of the Postal Service's contributions to its pension fund and provides immediate and needed financial relief to the Postal Service. It allows the Postal Service to reduce its debt and hold off on rate increases until at least 2006. It does this by crediting the Postal Service for the real value of contributions it made in the past and changing how contributions will be computed in the future.

This legislation is being introduced quickly because, without it, the Postal Service faces an increasing financial crisis. The Postal Service has suggested that, in the absence of such a change, a rate increase will be necessary within a year. While there is a need for action to be taken quickly, the issue requires more measured consideration than we are able to give it in this short time. That is why the bill includes a mechanism for Congress to revisit this issue. The bill requires the Postal Service to report on the ways in which the savings can best be used so that Congress can make an informed decision on such use. Given the many serious concerns about the Postal Service's future obligations, our legislation is only the first step in addressing much larger problems.

The legislation that we introduced today, however, is not perfect and we are still working on areas of disagreement. For instance, the bill requires the Postal Service to pay the pension costs associated with military service both before and after the change from the old Post Office Department to the new Postal Service. I do not believe this is a good idea; I am not convinced that the Postal Service, which is supposed to run like a private business, should be paying the costs of military service for employees in the Civil Service Retirement System. I am confident we will continue to be able to work together to resolve this important issue.

In closing, I want to commend Chairman DAVIS, Rep. MCHUGH, and Rep. DANNY DAVIS for their efforts in addressing this problem and for working in a bipartisan manner. The Postal Service faces many challenges and I look forward to working together on strengthening our nation's Postal Service.

FUEL CELL RESEARCH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about promising technology that could help protect our environment and safeguard our national security. Given time and support, research into hydrogen-powered fuel cells could yield a reliable, clean source of power and curtail our dependence on foreign oil.

By chemically combining oxygen and hydrogen, fuel cells generate electricity up to three times more efficiently than any internal combustion engine. Hydrogen has the highest energy content of any known fuel, and hydrogen-powered fuel cells run almost silently while emitting no pollutants. An automobile powered by fuel cells would produce only water as waste. Furthermore, hydrogen could be used for far more than transportation. Hydrogen fuel cells could be used to power homes and offices, and even to replace batteries for computers, cell phones, and other appliances.

Fuel cells could not only serve as a clean and efficient energy source, but also as a way to limit our reliance on foreign oil. If we don't concentrate on viable alternatives to now, the United States is expected to import 68 percent of the oil it consumes by 2025. Should hydrogen-powered fuel cells fulfill their promise, we could drastically reduce that figure and ensure our independence in a way that keeps our environment protected.

Despite the great potential of this technology, there are significant obstacles to overcome. Usable hydrogen remains expensive to produce and difficult to store effectively. At present fuel cells can cost up to ten times more than conventional engines. There is important work to do in this field, and I am proud to say that there are over a dozen organizations in my home state of Texas hard at work on solutions. Often Texas is thought of as oil country, but our state has the opportunity to play a vital role in the development of viable alternatives.

As a ranking member of the Science Committee, I am very interested in any technology that could help keep our environment cleaner and our people more secure. I appreciate the opportunity to participate and look forward to ongoing involvement in this promising avenue of research.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY PROTECTION ACT OF 2003

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Social Security Protection Act of 2003 to provide the Social Security Administration with the additional tools they need to fight activities that drain resources from Social Security and undermine the financial security of beneficiaries.

Many Social Security and Supplemental Security Income beneficiaries have individuals or

organizations called "representative payees" appointed by the Social Security Administration to help manage their financial affairs when they are not capable. At present nearly 8 million beneficiaries entrust their financial arrangements to 'rep payees'. Representative payees safeguard income and make sure expenditures are made for the beneficiary's good. While most are conscientious and honest, some are not.

Despite current precautions, abuse continues. For example, the Social Security Administration Office of Inspector General investigated one case in which an organization serving as representative payee to several hundred beneficiaries inappropriately charged those beneficiaries over \$100,000 in fees, which were paid for almost entirely using their benefits. In addition, this representative payee continued to receive and accept beneficiaries' checks without notifying the SSA when beneficiaries left the organization's care or were missing.

The Inspector General reported that between January 1997 and December 1999, Social Security identified over 2,400 representative payees who misused approximately \$12 million in benefits entrusted to their management. This bill raises the standards for persons and organizations serving as representative payees and imposes stricter regulation and monetary penalties on those who mismanage benefits entrusted to their care.

This bill also picks up where previous legislation ended in stopping benefit payments to those who have committed crimes. In 1996, Congress passed provisions denying Supplemental Security Income benefits to persons fleeing to avoid prosecution or confinement. However, these fugitive felons can still receive Social Security benefits, and the Congressional Budget Office estimates we will pay over \$500 million to them over the next 10 years directly out of the Social Security trust funds. This is not right, and this legislation denies the money to those fleeing justice.

My legislation also provides tools to further safeguard Social Security programs, help shield Social Security employees from harm while conducting their duties, expand the Inspector General's ability to stop perpetrators of fraud through new civil monetary penalties, and prevent persons from misrepresenting themselves as they provide Social Security-related services.

My legislation not only prevents fraud and protects the Social Security programs, it also helps those who are legitimately seeking to receive benefits by improving the attorney fee withholding process. This bill caps the current attorney fee assessment and extends fee withholding to Supplemental Security Income claims, enabling more individuals with disabilities to receive needed help navigating a complex application process for benefits.

And finally, this legislation continues the great work of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act, helping individuals with disabilities to return to work and independence when they are able.

Protecting Social Security programs is a key responsibility of the agency and of Congress. Taxpayers must be confident that their hard-earned payroll dollars are being spent accurately and wisely, and in the best interest of beneficiaries. That is why the 107th Congress's version of this bill, the Social Security Program Protection Act of 2002 (H.R.